

# The Picture and the Promise

By JEROME VAN KUIKEN | MARCH 27, 2019

*For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. . . . [God] gives you his Holy Spirit. (1 Thess. 4:7–8)*

When Strong. Proud. Courageous. The US marine stands at attention in impeccable dress blues, gleaming sword in white-gloved fist. The recruitment poster doesn't need words to convey its message: "Join up, and you can become just like this warrior: patriotic, professional, and self-assured." The picture makes a promise.

If you pledge yourself to the Marine Corps, you'll get plenty of regulations and demands. But you'll also get the training and tools you need to meet them. As you submit to the learning process, you'll begin measuring up to the standards embodied in that recruitment poster. The picture's promise is coming true.

While I was in seminary, Professors Matt Friedeman and Ray Easley wrote a catechism. They got stuck on this question: "What is a commandment of God?" Someone came up with the answer: "A picture of who God is and a promise of what we can become" (see *Hidden in the Heart: A Catechism for Children*).

The apostle Paul would have liked that definition. He reminded his converts that God commanded them to be holy. But this expectation wasn't arbitrary or impossible. God had given them his Holy Spirit so they'd have the help needed to reflect God's own character. Paul himself was a picture of the promise coming true (1 Thess. 2:2–12).

God's command hasn't changed. Neither has his promise. Will you join his corps?

**Commit yourself to the Holy Spirit to live a holy life.**

*Jerome Van Kuiken grew up in the Philippines as the child of missionaries. He teaches Bible, theology, and apologetics at Oklahoma Wesleyan University and serves in the children's ministry at his local church.*

**March 31, 2019**

**Sermon Notes:**

**Mark 10:17-31**

**Mark 8:35**

**1. I \_\_\_\_\_ more**

**2. I \_\_\_\_\_ more**

**James 2:10**

**3. Pay the \_\_\_\_\_ !**

**4. I relinquish \_\_\_\_\_**

**5. I receive \_\_\_\_\_**

**Reflection:** What is one new thing you believe God spoke to you today as a result of worshipping at FOCUS?

---

---

---

The Word of God directs us as we consider what the *next step* is for our lives. How do you approach God? What in your life might Jesus point out as something that is blocking you from receiving the Kingdom or hindering your relationship with your heavenly Father? Will you relinquish whatever it is that God is calling you to in order to receive the more He has for you?

---

---

---

**Challenge:** This week I will pray for the following state and local leaders and officials:

---

---

## **Communion at FOCUS**

Every Sunday at FOCUS we celebrate the **Lord's Table, also known as Communion.** We have open communion which means all are invited to receive. We receive communion elements by intinction. Tearing off a small piece of the loaf of bread, dipping it in the communion glass of juice, and then consuming it immediately. Please note, upon your request, we also have gluten free elements for those with gluten and other major food allergies.

## **FOCUS Small Groups**

Are you interested in connecting with others throughout the week? We have several Small Groups meeting and some who are preparing to start additional groups.

Our current Small Groups will not be meeting this coming week due to it being Spring Break for our local schools. Small groups will begin meeting again the week starting April 7th.

*\*If you would like more information about joining or starting a small group please contact Pastor Anton.  
afolz@focuswesleyan.org  
or 502-369-2096*

## **FOCUS Youth Group**

Will not be meeting tonight, 3/31/2019. We hope to see you next Sunday night as we return back from Spring Break.



# **FOCUS**

WESLEYAN CHURCH

***At FOCUS we exist to;  
Worship God,  
Live for Jesus,  
Love all People,  
and Serve the World.***

115 N. Water Street  
Georgetown, KY 40324  
(502) 369 2096

info@focuswesleyan.org  
www.focuswesleyan.org  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
focuswesleyan](https://www.facebook.com/focuswesleyan)

***STEM - April 6, 2019 - 8 AM  
- 4 PM @ Eastland Church of God  
2598 Liberty Road | Lexington, KY***

**Welcome**  
GROW SEE YOU